

Exhibit B

**OPERATING PLAN
FOR COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT
Between
Redlands City (City)
And The
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)
CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT (CDD)**

OPERATING PLAN

The Parties will meet annually, prior to the initiation of fire season to review and update, if necessary, the Operating Plan (OP). This OP will include protection area maps for all Parties, rates for use of city equipment and personnel, lists of principal personnel, dispatching procedures, and any other items identified in this OP as necessary for efficient implementation. This OP shall become attached to and be a part of the Agreement. This OP takes effect as of the date of the last signature and will remain in effect until superseded by a new OP or upon expiration of the agreement.

MUTUAL AID RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Mutual aid is the initial response by both the City and BLM CDD suppression resources that are identified in each Party's run cards or computerized automated dispatch system (CAD). The Protecting Party will not be required to reimburse the Supporting Party for initial response actions taking place in these areas within the first **24** hours (as identified in the Agreement) following initial dispatch of suppression resources. All assistance beyond this "Mutual Aid" period will be assistance by hire and will be billed retroactively for the full period from the time of initial dispatch.

Aircraft (fixed and rotary-winged) including pilot(s) shall always be Assistance by Hire, EXCEPT when the response is under a unified command and the fire threatens both local and federal jurisdictions. Fiscal responsibility for all aircraft will be determined by the ordering process, utilization and cost share agreements.

DESCRIPTION OF BLM DIRECT PROTECTION AREA (DPA)

The BLM has the responsibility for prevention, protection and suppression of wildland fires within BLM DPA, and on adjacent or intermingled State and private land as identified through written agreement.

CDD DPA map attached

DESCRIPTION OF CITY LOCAL RESPONSE AREA (LRA)

Within BLM lands the City has the responsibility for prevention, protection, all risk and suppression of structure and other non-wildland fires within the established fire district. These structures and lands protected by the City are intermingled or adjacent to lands protected by the BLM.

CLOSEST FORCES

The City and BLM agree to adopt the "Closest Forces" concept for initial response. This philosophy dictates that the closest available appropriate resource regardless of ownership shall be utilized initially. The emphasis to get the closest appropriate resources to respond to initial response fires is in the best interest of all Parties. This concept of "Closest Forces" will also be applied to ongoing incidents whenever there is a critical and immediate need for the protection of life and property. Beyond initial response, the "Closest Forces" concept is modified and the Protecting Party will request the most appropriate resource to aid in the suppression of a wildfire.

MOVE-UP AND COVER

"Move-up and Cover" is the reallocation of fire suppression resources from their established location to a temporary location. For this agreement, "Move-up and Cover" is limited to moving Supporting Party engine companies and dozers (if applicable) to Protecting Party facilities which have been temporarily vacated because of emergency activity. The Protecting Party may provide subsistence and lodging at no cost to the Supporting Party. Mutual Aid (if applicable) "Move-up and Cover" will be at no cost to the Protecting Party for the initial Mutual Aid period agreed to in this Agreement. While in the Mutual Aid period (if applicable), if the Supporting Party's resources are dispatched by the Protecting Party to a fire, Assistance by Hire will apply unless the fire is located in an area of predetermined aid (as agreed to in this Agreement). Federal resources may only be utilized for wildland fire response.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

Special Management Areas where restrictions on normal suppression methods apply include such areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species, sensitive cultural sites, botanical areas and areas with naturally occurring asbestos. In most of these areas, the use of dozers for fireline construction is the most impacting action and should be avoided, except in situations where life and property are directly threatened. The use of dozers in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern requires authorization from the authorized Federal Agency Administrator.

It is essential to request an Agency Administrator or their designated representative and/or Resource Advisor from the jurisdictional agency to advise the protecting agency regarding specific modified suppression necessary in these areas. Specific objectives for

protection of sensitive resources will be included in Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) analyses and the Incident Commander will incorporate special management considerations into the incident planning process.

The jurisdictional agency will provide necessary instructions for suppression and other wildland fire management actions in the Addendum within this OP. The supplement and more detailed maps of Special Management Areas will be provided to all command centers and to appropriate local suppression units. The jurisdictional agency will provide necessary instructions for fire management actions within this OP for the following areas as applicable:

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Research Natural Areas
- Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat
- Other areas identified in land management planning documents or otherwise requiring special procedures.

SINGLE POINT RESOURCE ORDERING

Any and all requests for emergency assistance and incident support on cross boundary incidents must be clear and precise and shall be processed and recorded through a single dispatching center identified by the Incident Commanders of both Parties (Unified Command) and supported by order and request numbers. **For the area identified as Area 69 described in the provided map, the Federal Interagency Communication Center will serve as the predetermined Unified Ordering Point.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT

The Parties agree to utilize the predetermined United States Forest Service Initial Attack Frequencies assigned for Area 69. Along with frequencies assigned by the Emergency Command Centers for the management of an incident. This includes the assigned Command and Tactical Frequencies. In the case where the Parties' administrative frequencies have not been assigned for those purposes, the use of those frequencies must be temporarily suspended. While away from the home geographic area and traveling to and from an incident, the Parties agree to suspend the use of their respective pre-assigned frequencies. These frequencies are licensed through the Federal Communications Commission for specific geographic areas and are not to be used outside those areas.

Family recreational “walkie-talkie” type radios are prohibited from use while traveling to and from an incident or while on any federal incident.

SHARING FREQUENCIES

The City agrees to authorize use by BLM of the following frequencies:

Please provide Frequencies	
Bendix-King Radio Group 2 and 800 Radio	
Command:	6-Fire-3 (800 MHz)
Primary Tac:	BDC V15 (VHF)
Secondary:	BDC V17 (VHF)

These frequencies will be used for fire/emergency only within or adjacent to the Department’s responsibility area.

San Bernardino National Forest agrees for their Frequencies to be utilized during the Initial attack as the closet federal resources responding.

USFS Initial Attack Frequencies.					
TX	RX	Freq ID	Ops Control	COOR Contact	Operations Area
168.150	171.475	Forest Net Repeat	BDF	BDF	Tone 4 Keller Peak.
168.150	171.475	Forest Net Repeat	BDF	BDF	Tone 9 Sansavine
168.200	168.200	Tac 2	BDF	BDF	
		Air to Ground	BDF	BDF	
168.4875	168.4875	A/G 53	BDF	BDF	
169.1125	169.1125	A/G 59	BDF	BDF	

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BLM CDD agrees to authorize use to the City the following frequencies:

BLM Extended Attack Frequencies					
TX	RX	Freq ID	Ops Control	COOR Contact	Operations Area
166.375	166.975	Admin RPTR	CDD	CDD	Tone 1 Government Pk.
166.375	166.975	Admin RPTR	CDD	CDD	Tone 5 Frost Pk.
166.375	166.975	Admin RPTR	CDD	CDD	Tone 8 Onyx Pk.
168.300	168.300	BLM SOA	CDD	CDD	BLM Scene of Action
168.4875	168.4875	IA-A/G 53	CDD	CDD	<i>Secondary</i> Fed A/G 53
169.1125	169.1125	A/G-59	CDD	CDD	<i>Primary</i> Fed A/G 59
166.675	166.675	IA Air	CDD	CDD	Statewide Air/Air

These frequencies will be used for fire/emergency only within or adjacent to the Department responsibility area.

OPERATIONAL & DUTY OFFICER CONTACTS

CITY DUTY OFFICER CONTACT

Radio Identifier	Name	Office Phone	Cell Phone	Location	email
C-700	Larry Waterhouse	909-798-7600	909-714-0249	City Office	lwaterhouse@confire.org
DP-701	Rich Sessler	909-798-7600	909-714-1795	City Office	rsessler@redlandsfire.org
BC-704	David Ketcherside	909-798-7600	909-233-9041	City Office	dketcherside@confire.org
BC-705	Reggie Brown	909-798-7600	909-265-6128	City Office	rbrown@confire.org
BC-706	Jim Topoleski	909-798-7600	909-714-0594	City Office	jtopoleski@redlandsfire.org

BLM CDD DUTY OFFICER CONTACT

Radio Identifier	Name	Office Phone	Cell Phone	Location	email
CH 3600	Paul Gibbs	951-697-5247	951-903-4135	District Office	pgibbs@blm.gov
CH 3601	Jim Tomaselli	951-697-5355	951-903-4137	District Office	jtomaselli@blm.gov
DIV 3602	Ray Ucha	951-697-5281	951-903-4136	Aviation	rucha@blm.gov
DIV 3603	James Gannon	951-697-5307	951-903-4141	District Office	jgannon@blm.gov
DIV 3606				South Zone	
DIV 3608	James Aragon	760-252-6008	951-903-4139	North Zone	jparagon@blm.gov
BC 3614	Jason Winbigler		951-903-4140	San Diego	jwinbigler@blm.gov
BC 3615	Mike Hill	760-384-5423	760-499-9449	Ridgecrest	Mhill@blm.gov
BC 3618	Eric Downard	760-240-8538	760-718-8048	Apple Valley	edownard@blm.gov
BC 3619	Tony Sandrini	760 367-3047	760-221 5801	Yucca Valley	tony_sandrini@nps.gov
DIV 3604	Andrea Lannen-Littlefield	909-382-2749	951-269-9021	FICC	alannenlittlefield@blm.gov

ICS QUALIFIED LIST AND IMT PERSONNEL

The list of qualified personnel is maintained by Command/Dispatch Centers. The resources may be available on an Assistance-by-Hire basis depending on Party's drawdown and commitments.

THE USE OF TRAINEES

Both Parties agree to the use of trainees when practical; however, the automatic dispatch of or use of trainees will not occur without prior approval of the hosting unit or Incident Commander. All other City/City Fire trainees that are not pre-approved will be the cost responsibility of the sending unit.

PAYMENT OF STRUCTURE PROTECTION

For wildfires within an agency's DPA, that agency will be financially responsible for the actions they take to keep wildfire from advancing on or threatening structures. For wildfires in or threatening local jurisdictions that border or overlay State or Federal DPA, Department will bear their own agency's costs for defending structures within their jurisdiction. When the local agency's resources are exhausted and need to be augmented for structure defense, as determined and negotiated by the unified incident commanders in consultation with Agency Representative and Agency Administrator, the State or Federal Agency having DPA responsibility will bear the cost of the augmentation. The

State or Federal Agencies are not financially responsible in situations when local government fire protection agencies order additional resources and or actions beyond the level deemed by the command structure.

REIMBURSEMENT RATES AND METHODOLOGY (non-aviation)

The City and BLM acknowledge the special legal requirements of each Party to provide backfill coverage (to respond to subsequent emergencies) that becomes necessary as a result of the execution of the Agreement, however, actual costs associated with backfill needs are not reimbursable. Reimbursement rates and methods under the CFAA are designed to provide financing for backfill needs.

Personnel responding to incidents will be reimbursed for actual time worked on the incident unless there is a MOU, MOA or governing body resolution that dictates the specific position is to be reimbursed portal to portal for the time committed to an emergency incident. The MOU, MOAs or resolutions must not be contingent on this agreement or executed on the sole basis that there is reimbursement from the federal or state agency, and must be identified as part of their normal business practices.

Reimbursement for authorized travel and salary will start from the point of hire. Either local fire department or residence whichever is less, using the most economical mode of transportation.

Reimbursement for equipment will be based on adhering to the minimum staffing levels as identified in Firescope Field Operations Guide 420-1, and the CFAA Rate Letter applicable at the time of the incident. The Supporting Party will provide fuel and lubricants while the equipment is enroute to the incident and while returning to the home unit. The Protecting Party will provide fuel and lubricants while the equipment is on the incident.

There is recognition that wildland fire suppression will often involve the use of equipment, supplies and cache items. Equipment, supplies and cache items checked out (such as pumps, hoses, nozzles, etc.), or supplied by one Party and received by another Party, shall become the responsibility of the receiving/supporting Party. Equipment, supplies and cache items shall be returned in the same condition as when received, reasonable wear and tear accepted. Notwithstanding the general Waiver of Claims clause, the parties agree that the Receiving/supporting Party shall repair or reimburse for damage in excess of reasonable wear and tear, and shall replace or reimburse items lost or destroyed, except for damage occurring as a result of negligence by the receiving/supporting Party. The receiving/supporting party will replace or reimburse for items lost, destroyed, or expended with items of like or similar standard from the fire cache or supply unit on the incident, or via an authorization for replacement using a unique request number. Insurance or other reimbursement options should be pursued, if

such options are available, prior to replacement or reimbursement for lost, stolen or destroyed items.

City Personnel and Equipment:

Reimbursement for personnel will be based on personnel rates on file with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) at the time of the incident and reimbursement methodologies outlined in the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA).

The BLM acknowledges the special legal requirements of each Party to provide backfill coverage (to respond to subsequent emergencies) that becomes necessary as a result of the execution of the Agreement. Actual costs associated with backfill needs are not reimbursable. Reimbursement rates and methods under the CFAA are designed to provide financing for backfill needs.

Personnel that routinely respond to emergencies (Chief Officers, Company Officers, and Firefighters) will be reimbursed portal to portal for time committed to the incident. All other personnel (non-suppression) will be reimbursed for actual time worked on the incident unless there is a MOU or governing body resolution that dictates the specific position is to be reimbursed portal to portal for the time committed to an emergency incident. The MOUs or resolutions must not be contingent on this agreement or executed on the sole basis that there is reimbursement from the federal or state agency.

Firefighters also include fire suppression aides, helicopter pilots and dozer operators. Reimbursement for equipment will be based on the CFAA Rate Letter applicable at the time of the incident and the rates included in the rate determination part of this document. All other equipment not listed in the CFAA Rate Letter (i.e. Dozers/Crew Carriers) will be reimbursed at the FEMA rates listed at the following link:

<http://www.fema.gov/schedule-equipment-rates>.

The Protecting Party will provide fuel and lubricants while the equipment is on the incident. The Supporting Party will provide fuel and lubricants while the equipment is en route to the incident and while returning to the home unit. The Protecting Party may pay or reimburse for damages in excess of normal wear and tear, and may replace or reimburse items lost or destroyed, except for damages occurring as a result of negligence by the Supporting Party.

Rate Determination

An Administrative Rate can be added to the **total** of the personnel, support equipment, and other approved reimbursements. The current default Actual Administrative Rate is 10% unless the has submitted an agency specific administrative rate to Cal OES under the CFAA. The Actual Administrative Rate on file with Cal OES at the time of the incident will be used.

For Reimbursement under the terms of this agreement all resource orders must be dispatched and processed by BLM, the City Emergency Command Center, the San

Bernardino County Communications Center or the Federal Interagency Communication Center depending on which agency is the unified ordering point (UOP). Any request not dispatched or processed by this UOP will not be reimbursed under this local agreement.

BLM Personnel and Equipment:

Reimbursable BLM costs will include actual costs associated with the direct fire operations and incident support ordered by or for the incident (except as otherwise described as reciprocal initial response as identified herein, and independent action situations). The City will be billed for support to incidents that are the jurisdictional responsibility of the City.

REIMBURSEMENT RATES AND METHODOLOGY (aviation)

Flight and stand-by rates for aircraft will be developed, agreed to in advance, and published annually herein, utilizing the rates and/or methodology utilized by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Assistance by Hire rates and reimbursements for aircraft will be based on the following guidelines:

1. Fixed Wing

Reimbursements will be based on aircraft rate which includes pilot costs. The Air Tactical Group Supervisor (“ATGS”) will be itemized separately. ATGS Stand-by rates will be determined based on personnel costs.

2. Helicopter

Reimbursement will be based on CAL FIRE Type 2 helicopter rate (same CAL FIRE UH-1H Super-Huey specification and cost basis) which includes pilot costs. Helitack crew with Helitender, Fuel Truck and chase vehicle (e.g. 1-Ton Pickup) will be itemized separately. Flight Crew and Crew Carrying Vehicle (CCV) will also be itemized separately.

WHERE TO SEND REIMBURSEMENT INVOICES

Invoices for services under this agreement must be sent to the following addresses as appropriate. This address supersedes any invoice mailing address which may be reflected in the existing cooperative agreement.

Invoices for services under this agreement must be sent to:

Redlands City Program Contact	Redlands City Administrative Contact
Name: Larry Waterhouse, Interim Fire Chief Address: 35 Cajon St #12; POB 3005 City, State, Zip: Redlands, CA 92373 Telephone: 909-714-1795 FAX: 909-798-7602 Email: lwaterhouse@redlandsfire.org	Name: Rich Sessler, Deputy Chief. Address: 35 Cajon Street #12; POB 3005 City, State, Zip: Redlands, CA 92373 Telephone: 909-798-7600 FAX: 909-798-7602 Email: rsessler@redlandsfire.org

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BLM CDD Program Contact	BLM CDD Administrative Contact
Name: Paul Gibbs, District Fire Management Officer Address: 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos City, State, Zip: Moreno Valley, 92553 Telephone: 951-697-5355 FAX: 951-697-5299 Email: pgibbs@blm.gov	Name: AnnMarie Carlson Address: 2800 Cottage Way City, State, Zip: Sacramento Ca. 95825 Telephone: (916) 978-4446 FAX: (916) 978-4438 Email: acarlson@blm.gov

ITEMS NOT REIMBURSABLE

The following items are not reimbursable in the execution of this Agreement and are considered standard personal support supply/equipment.

- Incident position support kits
- Calculators
- Computers
- Printers
- GPS units
- Cell phones (except as provided below)
- Personal telephone charges
- Support items normally available in Supply, e.g. tents, sleeping bags, pads, water coolers, etc.

Costs of agency cell phones in excess of normal monthly charges are reimbursable when supported by cell phone provider bills.

DURATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Consideration must be given to the health and safety of personnel when assigned to fires of long duration. It is agreed that duration of assignments is dictated by each Party's policy. Extension of assignments beyond the Supporting Party's policy may be requested. It is the responsibility of the Protecting Party to request relief personnel in advance of the Supporting Party's policy time limit. The Protecting Party is further responsible for the transportation costs of moving personnel to the fire and returning those relieved personnel back to their home stations. In all cases, the City and BLM agree that their Incident Commanders will release suppression resources to their primary mission responsibilities as soon as priorities allow.

REST AND RECUPERATION

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) establishes Rest and Recuperation (R & R) guidelines that govern R & R on all Federal incidents. These guidelines may change throughout the year depending on fire activity and physical condition of fire resources. City personnel assigned to a BLM incident may be given R & R during the incident in which case the R & R is in pay status and charged against the incident. However, if the City wishes to grant their personnel R & R upon their return to home, the R & R is not compensable under the terms of this agreement.

NON-WILDFIRE INCIDENTS

The City has jurisdictional responsibility for all non-wildfire emergencies within its protection area even when these areas include BLM DPA. The only exceptions are for those emergency incidents under the jurisdiction of the California Highway Patrol, County Sheriff, California Department of Fish & Wildlife and the U.S. Coast Guard.

WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION

JOINT PRESS RELEASES: Develop joint press releases on cooperative fire protection issues to ensure that the interests of both Parties are adequately addressed.

SMOKEY BEAR PROGRAM: The Parties will cooperate in the delivery of Smokey Bear programs.

LOCAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS: The Parties agree to cooperatively conduct local school and other fire prevention education programs.

FIRE PREVENTION SIGNS: Coordination and placement of fire prevention signs should be coordinated by both Parties in order to prevent duplication of effort and sending mixed messages. This is especially important for fire danger rating signs.

LOCAL EVENTS: The Parties agree to cooperatively conduct fire prevention programs at local community events.

BURNING AND CAMPFIRE PERMITS

In accordance with current instructions, permits for campfire (CDF form LE-63), dooryard premises burning (CDF form LE-62), and other burning (CDF form LE-5) (except vegetation management program and brushland conversion burning (CDF form LE-7) on State Responsibility lands in Federal Agency DPAs will be issued by the Federal Agency or local fire protection district personnel authorized to do so by the Director of CAL FIRE. If both Parties' personnel are authorized to issue campfire and burning permits by CAL FIRE, all Parties agree to issue burning and campfire permits for each other's DPAs. Both Parties agree to notify one another when burn permits are issued. Fire Restrictions, Red Flag or other situations that may affect the safe execution of campfire and/or burn permits will be shared by each Party.

NON-FIRE PROJECT USE OF RESOURCES

Each of the Parties may jointly conduct appropriate mutual interest projects such as prescribed burns and facility/compound maintenance. Any shared cost or reimbursement will be governed in accordance with a Supplemental Project Agreement signed by each Party prior to the start of the project.

WILDLAND FIRE DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM (WFDSS)

DOI policy requires the use of "Wildland Fire Decision Support System" (WFDSS) for all fires on or threatening DOI administered lands that have escaped initial response. In Unified Command situations the BLM will include the City/City Fire's input into the development of control objectives, strategy and priorities.

SUPPRESSION AND DAMAGE COLLECTION

The City and BLM reserve the right to pursue independent and separate courses of litigation and cost collection for suppression and damage on the fires that affect both Parties. Any costs recovered as a result of independent litigation will not be subject to apportionment with the other affected Party. Whenever collections that result from joint legal action have the effect of reducing next expenditures of either Party to accomplish provided for in this Agreement, then such collections may be reported and shared proportionately, after deducting the cost of collection.

REPAIR OF SUPPRESSION ACTIVITY DAMAGE

Repair of suppression related activity damage (e.g., spreading of dozer berms, installations of water bars, minor road repairs, minor fence repair, etc.) will normally be done by the Party with direct protection responsibility for the fire as an integral part of overhaul/mop-up. Any rehabilitation beyond this level may be the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency landowner.

MAPS TO SUPPORT ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

On an as needed basis, maps needed to support this OP will become attachments to the OP. These may include the DPA boundary, fire protection facilities by Party and location, pre-lanned "Mutual Aid" initial response areas, "Mutual Aid Move-up and Cover" facilities or special management consideration areas.

POSSESSION OF AGREEMENT AND AOP ON INCIDENTS

On incidents, the Supporting Party shall furnish the Protecting Party, upon demand, a signed copy of the Agreement and current OP.

APPROVAL:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Operating Plan as of the last date written below:

LARRY WATERHOUSE, INTERIM FIRE CHIEF,
CITY OF REDLANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT
Redlands, California

Date

BETH RANSEL, DISTRICT MANAGER
CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT,
Bureau of Land Management, Moreno Valley,
California Desert District.

Date

ADDENDUM A
SPECIAL SUPPRESSION
REQUIREMENTS
WITHIN BLM AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL
CONCERN (ACEC)

The lands within the California and Arizona Deserts have significant value to our agency and to the public that uses them. Many special flora and fauna species exist in a delicate balance with their environment. Human disturbances to habitat and or the individual can have dramatic consequences whether intended or not. It is a must that all fire activities are based on the requirements identified in agency planning documents that exist in each of our response areas. At a minimum, Zone FMOs will have a copy of the fire management plan from the BLM. Agency Administrators will provide additional requirements in writing or in briefings.

Special Management Areas where restrictions on normal suppression methods apply include such areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species, sensitive cultural sites, botanical areas and areas with naturally occurring asbestos. In most of these areas, the use of dozers for fireline construction is the most impacting action and should be avoided, except in situations where life and property are directly threatened. The use of dozers in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern requires authorization from the authorized Federal Agency Administrator.

It is essential to request a Resource Advisor from the jurisdictional agency to advise the protecting agency regarding specific modified suppression necessary in these areas. Specific objectives for protection of sensitive resources will be included in Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) analyses and the Incident Commander will incorporate special management considerations into the incident planning process. In the absence of an Agency Administrator, a qualified Agency Administrator Representative will be assigned to incidents to represent the political, social, and economic issues of the Agency Administrator to the incident commander.

The jurisdictional agency will provide necessary instructions for suppression and other wildland fire management actions. To provide the best information possible, information from unit and agency specific Fire Management Plans, Land Use Plans, and Resource Management Plans will be provided as necessary. These reference documents provide agency specific guidelines concerning each Special Management Area and considerations to be taken while engaging in fire suppression/ rehabilitation activities in the identified areas, as well as maps of Special Management Areas. Maps of Special Management Areas should be provided to all command centers/dispatch centers and to appropriate local suppression units.

The main consideration is to eliminate surface disturbances associated with fire suppression efforts as much as possible within BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This also reduces rehabilitation costs associated with suppression activities.

Repair of suppression activity damage (e.g. spreading of dozer berms, installation of water bars, minor road repairs, etc.) will normally be done by the agency with direct protection responsibility for the fire as an integral part of overhaul/mop-up. Any rehabilitation beyond this level is the responsibility of the landowner or jurisdictional government agency.

PRINCIPLES

1. Until Fire Management Plans with prescriptions for prescribed fire are developed, Department of the Interior policy requires that all fires in wilderness, WSAs, and ACECs are deemed to be “wildfires” and will be subject to suppression action.
2. A wildfire in a wilderness or ACEC is not in itself an emergency that requires aggressive response unless the fire threatens human life, property, safety or critical resource values.
3. When engaged in suppressing wildfires in ACECs, the following Special Suppression Requirements will be incorporated into the fire suppression action:
 - a. Safety of fire-fighting personnel will receive the highest priority.
 - b. All suppression actions will be carried out in a manner that least impairs ACEC values, i.e. minimum impact suppression techniques.

Any action necessary to prevent loss of life or real property may be taken, even if the action impairs ACEC values if such action is consistent with the values at risk and the safety of personnel.
 - c. All fires in ACECs that are protected by a non-Interior agency will have an Interior Department Agency Representative and Resource Advisor (READ) assigned to the fire to advise the protecting agency of Interior Department laws and policies.
 - d. Dozer use in ACECs needs approval of the Field Manager.
 - e. All rubber-tired suppression vehicles will be driven on existing residual ways of passage.
 - f. Engines and portable pumps may be used to support fire line construction through hose lays, where possible.
 - g. Suppression tactics will attempt to use foam, fugitive (uncolored) retardant and other new technologies in lieu of more surface-disturbing suppression tactics.
 - h. Retardant will be dropped no closer than 300 feet from any wetland or riparian area.
 - i. Where feasible, it will be acceptable to burn out ridges, washes, other natural barriers and roads to stop the spread of fire and serve as control lines. Fire lines may tie into but not proceed through meadows, spring areas, riparian zones, or

cultural sites.

- j. Fire suppression repair requirements will be determined by the Agency Administrator or delegated representative. Suppression repair will be determined during suppression activities while fire forces and equipment are still on incident.
4. A Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) decision must be published for every wildfire burning BLM-managed lands that is not immediately suppressed. The WFDSS will prescribe the level of suppression action. The WFDSS may prescribe actions that range from surveillance/monitoring to full suppression. The WFDSS will be used to reconcile resource management issues as they relate to the wildfire.
 5. The Agency Administrator or their delegated representative is responsible for developing and approving the WFDSS in conjunction with the Incident Commander.
 6. Fire Management Plans for the BLM have incorporated the role of fire as an essential ecological process and natural change agent in wilderness. The WFDSS will provide specific direction for each fire.
 7. Fire Management Plans may provide for prescribed fires to attain the following objectives:
 - a. To reintroduce or maintain natural conditions of a fire-dependent ecosystem.
 - b. To restore fire where past strict fire control measures have interfered with natural processes.
 - c. Where prescribed burning will perpetuate a threatened or endangered species, or habitat listed as critical to that species.
 8. Fire management and suppression will conform to the Fire Management Plan that is in force for the lands in question.
 9. The signatories will develop local plans, where necessary, with other agencies, notably the BLM that engage in fire suppression on Federal lands that are designated as ACECs. Such plans will ensure that the laws and standards that govern Federal lands apply to the cooperating agencies. Such plans will include detailed requirements for rehabilitation of suppression-caused damage.
 10. The signatories will support standardized job performance requirements and qualification for agency representatives and READs between agencies.